

An e-market Architecture for Supporting Multiple Roles and  
Reconfigurable Business Processes

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for allowing flexible creation and alteration of business processes within a commerce  
5 system includes using state machines to describe the actions that can be taken by particular roles  
at particular points in a process. The state machines are used by a commerce system to enforce  
validity of user actions, to track the execution of actions within an instance of the business  
process, to provide the user interface with a list of actions available to a user working on an  
instance of the business process, to provide coordination between state machines, and to allow  
10 different organizations to have varied business processes.